

NEWS RELEASE
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Mayor Coleman and area officials break ground for the final phase of Linden's Four Corner's project

(Columbus) With shovels in hand, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Huntington Bank CEO Tom Hoaglin, the Greater Linden Development Corporation and residents broke ground for the Clarence D. Lumpkin Point of Pride building at the corner of 11th and Cleveland avenues. The 21,000 square-foot office retail complex is being named after long-time South Linden community activist Clarence D. Lumpkin.

"Clarence Lumpkin has worked tirelessly for the residents in South Linden, and is the motivating force that, back in 1996, brought me and others together to erase the blighted buildings at this intersection and redevelop it into something the community could be proud of," said Mayor Coleman. "It is both an honor and pleasure to see the final corner begin construction after nearly 10 years hard work. The Point of Pride building could not be named after a more deserving person."

The \$2.9 million building is the final phase of the Four Corner's master plan developed in 1997 by Mayor Coleman and the Columbus Urban Growth Corporation to revitalize the once-blighted and crime infested South Linden neighborhood. The City of Columbus is offering a 75%/10-year tax abatement on real and personal property and will loan the Greater Linden Development Corporation (GLDC) \$650,000 toward the project.

The GLDC has also partnered with Huntington Bank, the Ohio Community Development Finance Fund, and the Columbus Compact, all of whom are providing construction financing.

"As the hometown bank, we believe in investing in the communities we serve. We are proud to continue to reinforce our financial commitment to the community through home and home improvement loans, small business loans and investments that will make a true difference in the areas that need it most," said Hoaglin, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Huntington.

The Four Corner's project includes the COTA Transit Center, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), the Crosstown Building, State Farm and

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the Columbus Policing Center. The project has also spurred the development of New Linden Heights, where seven single family homes were built.

“The Point of Pride building is not just a commercial development project. It is the realization of one man’s inspired vision through the hard work and perseverance of many working together in partnership. It signifies the restoration of a community’s hope,” said C. Reggie Thomas, Chair, Greater Linden Development Corporation”

The Clarence D. Lumpkin Point of Pride Building is expected to be completed in July 2006.